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United States Patent [19]**Rosenbluth et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,527,336**[45] **Date of Patent:** *** Jun. 18, 1996**[54] **FLOW OBSTRUCTION TREATMENT METHOD**

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- [*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,030,227.

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Related U.S. Application Data

- [63] Continuation of Ser. No. 114,200, Aug. 30, 1993, abandoned, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 722,899, Jun. 28, 1991, Pat. No. 5,312,430, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 360,088, Jun. 1, 1989, Pat. No. 5,030,227, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 201,686, Jun. 2, 1988, Pat. No. 5,007,898, said Ser. No. 722,899, is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 535,999, Jun. 8, 1990, abandoned, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 427,924, Oct. 25, 1989, abandoned, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 229,155, Aug. 5, 1988, abandoned, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 939,754, Dec. 9, 1986, Pat. No. 4,762,128.
- [51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **A61M 29/00**
- [52] **U.S. Cl.** **606/192; 606/108; 604/96; 604/104; 600/116; 600/157**
- [58] **Field of Search** 604/96-103, 280, 604/264, 104, 170; 128/898, 4-6, 7; 606/191-196, 108; 623/12; 600/116, 157

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Primary Examiner—C. Fred Rosenbaum*Assistant Examiner*—Mark Bockelman*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear[57] **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is an apparatus and method for the treatment of the symptoms of obstructive prostatism. The apparatus comprises an expandable dilation catheter and preferably an axially elongate sheath, adapted for transurethral insertion via the external opening of the urethra. The sheath is ellipsoid in cross-section, and provides an initial path through which the catheter and a standard cystoscope lens is guided. The dilation catheter or the sheath are provided with a non-radiological locating means for positioning the dilation portion of the catheter with respect to an anatomical landmark. Once the catheter has been properly positioned with respect to both the bladder neck and the sphincter, the dilation balloon may be inflated to force open the affected prostatic urethra and eliminate the obstruction.

10 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets